

# POLICY

## SCHOOL UNIFORMS AND DRESS CODES

<b>Responsibility of:</b>	Quality School Systems and Support	<b>DoE File:</b> FILE2018/3871
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<b>Target Audience:</b>	All Government preschool, school staff, school representative bodies and parents	

This document should be read in conjunction with the **Sun Safety in Schools** policy.

### 1. POLICY

All Northern Territory government schools must develop a school based dress code in line with this policy and in consultation with the school community.

It is compulsory for all students from Transition to Year 9 (T-9), enrolled in a Northern Territory government school, to wear a school uniform whilst attending school and official school activities both during and after school hours. Schools are required to offer uniform options that are similar for all students and include shorts and long trousers for girls, available as every day wear.

Northern Territory government senior school and preschool students are required to adhere to their school's dress code. All school dress codes must align with the Sun Safety in Schools policy. Whilst school uniforms are not compulsory for senior schools and preschools, principals are encouraged to consult with their school community in regard to any proposed implementation of a school uniform.

A school dress code must consider:

- a) health and safety requirements, such as:
  - promoting sun smart behaviour
  - enclosed footwear and appropriate clothing for educational activities such as physical education, science and technical studies
- b) the cost to parents of providing compulsory uniforms.

**Attachment A** provides a template for schools to use to guide the development of the school based dress codes. School dress codes must be communicated and readily available to staff, parents and students.

### **1.1 Compulsory school uniform items**

Compulsory school uniform items must be clearly described in the schools dress code.

If a student is unable to partake in educational activities due to health and safety concerns (inappropriate clothing or footwear), alternative educational activities must be provided.

Primary and middle schools are encouraged to seek official Sun Smart accreditation through the National Sun Smart Schools Program. When prescribing a school uniform / dress code, consideration should also be given to the Cancer Councils '[The role of clothing in sun protection](#)'.

### **1.2 Optional school uniform items**

Optional school uniform items must be clearly described in dress codes. This may include items such as: jumpers, hair ties or sport shirts.

### **1.3 Support measures to assist parents in purchasing uniforms**

Principals must implement support measures to assist parents in purchasing uniforms for their children. These may include offering second hand uniforms at a discounted price or allowing parents to pay for uniforms in instalments.

[The Back to School Payment Scheme](#) may also be used to pay for school uniform items.

### **1.4 Non-compliance with school dress code**

Principals must implement measures to manage student non-compliance with a dress code.

## **2. BUSINESS NEED**

The compulsory requirement for students to wear a uniform aims to promote a positive school identity and a safe, inclusive learning environment. The adoption of sun smart uniforms should be made in order to align with the department's Sun Safety in Schools policy.

## **3. SCOPE**

This policy applies to all Northern Territory government schools however compulsory school uniforms only apply to primary and middle school students.

Distance learning schools and students are exempt from the requirements of this policy.

This policy does not apply to school staff.

## **4. DEFINITIONS**

### **Parent**

The child's father, mother or any other person who has parental responsibility for the child, including a person who is regarded as a parent of the child under Aboriginal customary law or Aboriginal tradition.

### **Sun Smart behaviour**

The understanding and practice of procedures which help to reduce the harmful risks associated with too much UV including sunburn and skin cancer. Sun Smart behaviours include:

- sun protective hat: a wide brimmed hat that shades the head, face, neck and ears
- sun protective uniform / clothing: includes cool, loose fitting clothing that covers as much skin as practical and has a densely woven fabric
- sunscreen: SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen
- sunglasses: wrap-around style labelled AS1067
- shade: built, natural or portable that creates densely shaded areas.

### **School communities**

Principals, staff, students, school councils, parents and community members with an interest in the efficient and successful operation of a school.

### **School uniform**

Consists of clothing that identifies a student as belonging to a particular school.

## **5. ROLES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES**

**Principals** are accountable for:

- developing, reviewing and communicating a dress code for their school, in consultation with their school communities
- implementing support measures to assist parents in purchasing uniforms for their children, as well as measures to manage non-compliance with a dress code
- ensuring that the compulsory school uniform aligns with the department's Sun Safety in Schools policy and Sun Smart measures provided by the Cancer Council NT.

## **6. RELATED POLICY, LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS**

**DoE Policy:** *Error! Reference source not found.*

Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act</a></li></ul>
Departmental policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Sun Safety in Schools policy</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Complaints policy and guidelines</a></li><li>• <a href="#">The Back to School Payment Scheme</a></li></ul>
Relevant resources and links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Subsidised bus travel</a> for Northern Territory Government middle and primary school students in school uniform</li><li>• <a href="#">Cancer Council NT National SunSmart Schools Program</a></li><li>• <a href="#">SunSmart accreditation for primary schools</a></li></ul>